

t2    *THE CASTAWAYS OF THE FLAG*

length. For several weeks winds varied from north-west to south-west. The corvette spoke Saint Helena, Ascension, and the Cape Verde islands. Then, after passing in sight of the Canaries and Azores, off the coasts of Portugal and France, she came up the Channel, rounded the Isle of Wight, and, on the 14th of February, dropped anchor at Portsmouth.

Jenny Montrose wanted to start at once for London, where her aunt lived. If the Colonel were in active service she would not find him there, since the campaign for which he had been recalled from India might have lasted for several years. But if he had retired, he would have settled near his sister-in-law, and it would be there that he would at length set eyes again upon her whom he believed to have perished in the wreck of the *Dorcas*.

Fritz and Frank offered to escort Jenny to London, whither business called them also, and Fritz naturally wanted to meet Colonel Montrose soon. So all three set out the same evening, and arrived in London during the morning of the 23rd.

-But bitter grief fell upon Jenny Montrose. She

learned from her aunt that the colonel  
had died  
during his last campaign, without the  
happiness of  
knowing that the daughter whom he had  
mourned  
for was still alive. After coming back  
from the  
far waters of the Indian Ocean to  
embrace her